REGISTERED NO. M 4345

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1944 No. 21

NOTHING WILL DIVERT US FROM OUR AIM

SIR ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR

The battle of Germany ranked with the battle of Stalingrad and the battle of the Atlantic among the decisive battles of the war We do not gloat over the destruction of German homes and the suffering which the German people are undergoing, although we remember that Hitler and Goering did gloat over the destruction of British cities and sent their pilots to the microphone to dilate on the hideousness of the horror they were visiting on British civilians Civilians are not our targets

Our aim is to paralyse the German war industry and transport and the objectives are—not cathedral towns—but cities which are centres of the German war industry and transport and **nothing will divert us from our aim**

SIR ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR, *Air Minister at Plymouth, on Saturday (January 22)*

CONTENTS

	PAGE
EDITORIAL—	
The Battle for Rome	3
RUNNING COMMENTARY—	
R.A.F.'s 11th Large-scale Raid on Berlin, Nerve Centre of the Reich; To paralyse German War Industry—Sir A. Sinclair on Allied Aim, etc	4–6
"Walthamstow" at Ooty: Holiday House for R.A.F. Officers	7
War-time Hardships. By Rao Bahadur G. A. Natesan.	8
To Certain Experimenters with Truth. (*By* R.G.)	9
Britain's War-time Economy. By Donald Tyerman	12
Lenin and the Red Army. By I. Mintz	14
The Marshall Islands—A Lesson in War-time Geography.	16
Jokers of the R.A.F. By Ralph Michaelis	17
War Diary	19–20

NOTE.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

THE SECOND FRONT

"In the Second Front so far as the Navy is concerned, everything is ready, and whatever is required of it will be done. The War can only end one way. The Navy under the protection of the air force, will carry the Army and land it at selected points of invasion, which have been previously softened up by bombing. Everybody will be in it."

ADMIRAL SIR WILLIAM JAMES, M.P., *Director of Naval Information at Leeds on Monday, January 24.*

◆

KNOCKOUT OF 'LUFTWAFFE'

"The German Air Force can be pretty well knocked out given reasonable weather. Given the same sort of weather we had in the Mediterranean for a while I do not think the *Luftwaffe* would last very long."

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL CAVIL SPAATZ, *Commander of the United States Strategic Air Forces in Britain, at London on Saturday, January 22.*

◆

ALLIED PROGRESS

"I would say that the progress on the German contract is satisfactory but that some overtime and extra effort will be necessary if the contract is to be completed on reasonable schedule. In the case of the other enemy, I would say that we are 'all tooled up' to handle the Japanese contract. It will not be long before we are in full scale production on this contract as well. A great amount of 'know how' which we have gained from the German contract will be useful in fulfilling the Japanese contract though completion of the German contract is not holding up production on the Japanese contract nearly so much as many seem to believe."

FIELD MARSHAL SIR JOHN DILL, *at Detroit on Monday, January 24.*

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1944 No. 21

THE BATTLE FOR ROME

THE Battle for Rome is now on. A great land, sea and air offensive is raging for the Capital of Italy. The landing of British and American troops of the Fifth Army led by General Clark on the west coast of Italy deep in the rear of enemy's front line positions on Saturday (January 22), took the Germans completely by surprise. In a statement broadcast over the Algiers radio, General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean said that an enormous Armada which left Naples made landings south of Rome and that the enemy was taken by surprise, because air forces which attacked the German air fields in the Rome area kept the *Luftwaffe* on the ground unable to make reconnaissance. The landing took them so completely unawares that it is stated that the Germans did not fire a single shot for two hours. Before the landing, the Allied forces made a very heavy preparatory attack to paralyse the new battle zone. The attack was similar to that made before the Salerno landings. All the enemy air fields in the Rome area, with the exception of the Guidonia air field, three miles from Rome, were put out of operation.

THE new Allied landing on the west Italian coast, which may be stated to mark the beginning of the Battle for Rome, was made between Nettuno and the Tiber estuary. The town of Nettuno which has been captured by the Allies is on the coastal road leading to Rome and is 32 miles due south of the Italian capital and 57 miles south-west of the present Allied lines north of the Garigliano river.

Kesselring's Four Alternatives

KESSELRING had before him four alternatives after the capture of Nettuno. The first was to rush troops from the north to seal off the Allied threat from Nettuno. The second choice was to recall the three mobile Grenadier divisions which he recently sent south. The third alternative was to order a general retreat on the southern line But he chose the fourth, namely, that of counter-attacking in full strength. So far, all these counter-attacks have been costly failures. Kesselring's object in counter-attacking may be either to attempt a strong break-through with a view to disorganizing Allied plans, or to upset the main line so that he could retire on his own terms.

IN assessing the value of the slow Allied operations in Italy generally at their true worth, we have to remember three important factors. The first is the strength of German resistance. Kesselring's divisions in Italy are of a high quality and their skilful, stubborn and fierce resistance has earned a tribute from the *Times*. Reviewing the Allied capture of Ortona after the very able defence of the First German Parachute Division, the *Times* Weekly Edition says, "It was an education for any soldier to fight against them." In mine laying, field fortifications and in demolition, the Germans have demonstrated their great skill in Italy. The "pill-boxes" which are part of their defensive tactics are of two sizes and are built into rocks. One is the four-feet-by-four-feet pill-box which contains machine-gun nests, and the other is the ten-by-ten pill-box which contains mortar battery. These pill-boxes are placed 70 yards apart and are cunningly camouflaged. Their roof of broken stone is separated by railway lines buried two feet deep, and their approaches are sown with anti-personal mines. Inside such fortifications, small units have sometimes succeeded in holding up entire regiments even for days.

Geography and Weather

THE second factor we have to bear in mind is Italy's geographical feature. The German defence has derived incalculable assistance from the Appennine mountains and their spurs which extend from sea to sea on the present battle-front. These constitute a very great barrier to the movement of numerous armoured formations of Allied troops. The structure of the mountains help the amazingly good camouflaged location of the enemy's artillery, mortar and machine-gun positions and protect the troops from the worst effects of air-bombing.

THE third factor is, of course, bad weather. Those who have seen recent news reels of the fighting on the Italian front in the cinemas would have some idea of the extremely bad Italian weather. The unusual prolongation of autumn rains and the mighty storms that have swept down the Italian peninsula from the Alps have been of very great benefit to the enemy. Heavy Allied bombers which have vitally influenced the course of the war in Tunisia and Sicily and at Salerno have been handicapped on account of the rain and the storm. Bad weather has often forced Allied aircraft to stick to the ground and reduce their capacity to reconnoitre to the minimum. That was why they have not been able to render full co-operation to the artillery and infantry.

THESE three great handicaps have slowed down Allied operations in Italy, but now things are moving at a comparatively fast pace in the Rome area. General Clark's invasion forces are astride the Appian Way and Marshal Kesselring's resistance is gradually increasing in its intensity. It is only to be expected that the fight for the Capital of Italy will be hard and strenuous. The further course of the progress of the Allied offensive will be watched with very great interest.

Mr. CHURCHILL'S 69th BIRTHDAY IN TEHERAN.—Mr. Churchill spent his 69th birthday during the conference in Teheran. He gave a private dinner party where a cake with 69 candles on it was presented to him. He was also presented with gifts by British and Indian troops in PAIFORCE. The British Press unit also gave him a present. Mr. Churchill shakes hands with officers of the guard.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

R.A.F.'s 11th Large-scale Raid on Berlin, Nerve Centre of the Reich

The Battle of Berlin was continued last week when the largest force of Lancasters and Halifaxes that have so far left British bases launched a very heavy attack on the German capital (Jan. 21), and dropped over 2,300 tons of bombs within half an hour.

This was the 11th large-scale raid on Berlin in the last two months. According to HOWARD SMITH, Columbia Broadcasting System's commentator, the bombing devastation in Berlin since November is "the most enormous single destruction in history." He says, "It is bigger than Warsaw, Rotterdam, Coventry, Stalingrad and Hamburg together. Travellers estimate that from 30 to 50 per cent of the City has been destroyed beyond repair." Another report says that Allied bombers have levelled one-seventh of this vast city's built-up area. "Why," it may be asked, "is it necessary to bomb Berlin?" DOROTHY THOMPSON, the leading woman journalist in the United States, says:

"The bombing of Berlin has a peculiar importance, because of the structure of the German State, possibly the most centralised on earth. Berlin is the nerve-centre, not only of the German Reich, but also of HITLER New Order of Europe."

She goes on to point out that the whole industrial system has its centre in Berlin:

"The Nazi economic system," she says, "does not merely do overall planning, but every factory has to apply to Berlin for every raw material, all man-power, and for everything necessary for production and in detail. The German economic life is organized as one great corporation, with a supermanagement in Berlin. It, too, is completely bureaucratised. Everything is run by meticulous book-keeping . . . Berlin is also a great industrial centre and the hub of the nation's railways." She sums up the object and effect of the Battle of Berlin by saying, "In a prize fight if the brain is reeling, the muscles may be as strong as ever, but they do not function."

On Saturday last (Jan. 22), aircraft of the R.A.F. Bomber Command made a very heavy attack on Magdeburg, one of the most important industrial cities in Central Germany, and over 2,000 tons of high explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped. Magdeburg, the ancient capital of Saxony, is 50 miles south-east of Brunswick and is the largest sugar-beet refining centre in Germany. It has a number of factories, the most important of which is a branch of the Krupps iron works. Aircraft parts, machine tools and chemicals are manufactured in other factories located at Magdeburg, which is also a great administrative and military centre.

* * *

To Paralyse German War Industry—Sir A. Sinclair on Allied Aim

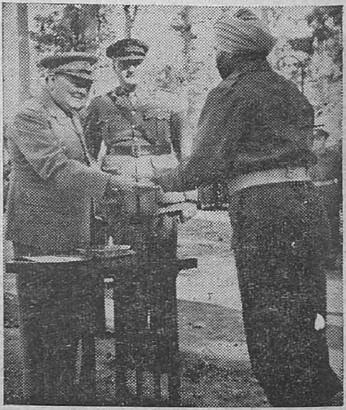
The attacks on Berlin, Magdeburg and other industrial centres show clearly the policy of Allied air power. Speaking at Plymouth last Saturday (Jan. 22), Sir ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR, the Air Minister, said:

"Civilians are not our targets. Our aim is to paralyse the German war industry and transport, and the objectives are—not cathedral towns—but cities which are centres of German war industry and transport. And nothing will divert us from our aim."

German industries especially those directly connected with war effort, German rail, air and water communications, especially railway marshalling yards, air-fields, and ship and U-boat building yards have been, and are being, continuously hammered by the Royal Air Force, because only by that means can the German war production be neutralized.

Referring to Allied bombing policy some time ago, Sir ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR said:

"We shall continue to hammer the enemy from the skies till we have paralysed their war industries, disrupted their transport system and broken their will to war."



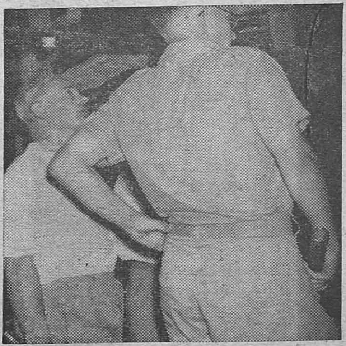
Havildar Kirpal Singh presenting a gift to the Prime Minister from a battalion of the 11th Sikh Regiment. The gift was a painting on ivory by the famous Persian artist Imami.

The following figures give an idea of the growing weight of bombs thrown on vital German industrial targets during the four years of the war. They refer only to the bomb loads dropped by the Royal Air Force on Germany :—

	TONS.
July–September, 1940	2,750
October–December, 1940	2,500
January–March, 1941	2,700
April–June, 1941	7,200
July–September, 1941	8,800
October–December, 1941	4,300
January–March, 1942	3,500
April–June, 1942	12,300
July–September, 1942	15,600
October–December, 1942	5,600
January–March, 1943	17,400
April–June, 1943	36,700
July–September, 1943	44,100
October–December, 1943	38,550

It is estimated that from the outbreak of the war to the end of 1943, 202,000 tons of bombs were dropped on targets in Germany, out of which more than 136,000 tons were dropped in 1943. If we add another 20,000 tons dropped on targets in occupied Europe, we get the colossal figure of 156,000 tons of bombs which fell from British bombers during 1943 on HITLER's *Festung Europa*.

The American Air Force has also contributed its own quota to the bombing of HITLER's industrial centres. The Eighth United States Army Air Force started operations from British bases on August 1, 1942, and it has dropped about 50,000 tons, 20,000 of which were dropped in 1943.



VICEROY'S TOUR.—Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Wavell recently concluded a tour of Bihar, Bengal and Assam. The tour included a visit to coal mines. Photo shows *Lord Wavell inside a coal mine.*

2

VICEROY'S TOUR.—Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Wavell recently concluded a tour of Bihar, Bengal and Assam. Photo shows *the Viceroy at the Narayangunj relief camp, Bengal.*

Steadily Growing Weight of R.A.F. Bomber Offensive

Some idea of the steadily growing weight of the Royal Air Force bomber offensive based in Britain can be gathered by the following average figures of bombs dropped in successive years of the war :—

1939–40	1 ton a day.
1940–41	55 tons a day.
1941–42	90 „
1943	420 „

The following figures give us a rough idea of the great improvement in concentrated bombing :—

Lieut.-General IRA C. EAKER, Commander of the Eighth United States Army Air Force in Britain, stated that the Allied objective was " simply to drop bombs on HITLER's war machine until it breaks down."

The question arises whether Germany can be broken down merely by bombing. Addressing the United States Congress in May, 1943, Mr. CHURCHILL said :

" Opinion, Mr. President, is divided as to whether the use of air power by itself could bring about the collapse of Germany or Italy. The

	Tons dropped.	Tons a minute.
Lubeck—March, 1942 ..	300	2
Cologne—May, 1942 ..	1,500	16·7
St. Nazaire—February, 1943	1,000	22
Essen—April, 1943 ..	1,000	25
Duisburg—May, 1943 ..	1,350	30
Dortmund—May, 1943 ..	2,000 (above)	34
Dusseldorf—June, 1943 ..	2,000 (above)	34
Hamburg—July, 1943 ..	2,300	46
Essen—July, 1943 ..	2,000	40
Berlin—September, 1943 ..	1,000	50
Berlin—November, 1943 ..	2,300	50 (above).
Berlin—December, 1943 ..	2,000	50 (above).
Frankfurt—December, 1943	2,000	70

The statements of Allied leaders generally on bombing of Germany are of interest in this connection. Mr. ATTLEE, Deputy Prime Minister, said :

" The destruction of the Axis war potential by air bombing is a vital and major feature of our offensive." Britain's Foreign Secretary, Mr. ANTHONY EDEN, declared, " We shall bomb the German and Fascist military machine wherever it is to be found."

experiment is well worth trying so long as other measures are not excluded."

Referring to this subject about three months ago, Air Marshal HARRIS said, " We propose entirely to emasculate every centre of enemy production. . . We intend to reduce what remains of the German submarine offensive to nought ". During last year, the emasculation of German industries has gone

on at a progressive rate. More than 58 German industrial towns have felt the weight of Allied bombing. The major industrial towns bombed during 1943 and the number of raids carried out by Allied bombers are given below :—

Berlin	46
Bremen	9
Cologne	11
Dusseldorf	4
Emden	7
Essen	8
Frankfurt	5
Hamburg	13
Hanover	7
Kiel	6
Stuttgart	4
Wilhelmshaven ..	12

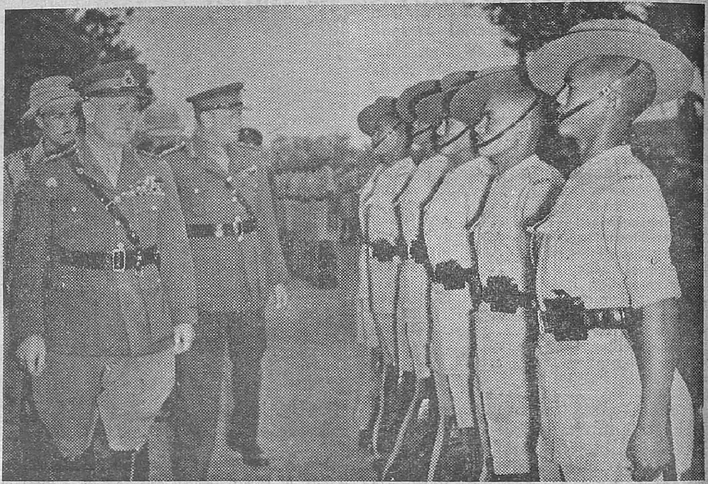
Of these, Berlin enjoys the distinction of being the most heavily raided target in the world. About 20,000 tons of bombs were dropped on Berlin alone. Hamburg comes next with 10,000 tons. Berlin's industrial targets have received such a severe pounding that many of her 500 industrial plants have been so badly hit as to take months to be repaired. The Siemens electrical plant, the largest in Germany, has been very hard hit. It is estimated that 50,000 tons of bombs are required to liquidate the German capital, and this process is at work.

Referring to the mass raids on Berlin which have worked such great havoc, the London *Times* says, "These attacks were particularly dramatic in their destructive violence, but they mark only a stage in the policy which has been carried on consistently and developed as steadily as means would permit . . . As it has expanded it has fulfilled two functions : first the damaging and, in later instances, the complete destruction of German war industry and the interruption of communications ; secondly, the carrying of the war to German territory."

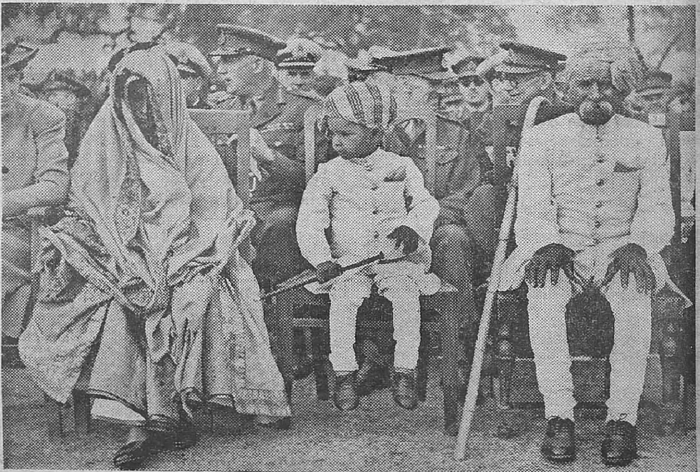
In Essen more than 670 buildings of the Krupps armament works have been wiped out. At Kiel, Bremen, Hamburg and Wilhelmshaven, U-boat building and repairing yards have been attacked and their production has been reduced enormously.

The policy of blasting German vital war industries must be having its own effect on the *morale* of the German people and paving the way for the day of final victory.

THIRD VICTORIA CROSS



VICEROY PRESENTS VICTORIA CROSSES.—The third Victoria Cross presentation parade to be held in India since the outbreak of war took place before the historic walls of the Red Fort, Delhi, when the Viceroy, Field Marshal Lord Wavell, presented the Victoria Cross to the widow of Company Havildar-Major Chhelu Ram, 6th Rajputana Rifles, and to Jemadar Gaje Ghale, 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles. Photo shows *the Viceroy, accompanied by the Commander-in-Chief General Sir Claude Auchinleck, inspecting a Guard-of-Honour formed by men of the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles.*



Reading from left to right.—*The widow, small son and father of Company Havildar-Major Chhelu Ram.*

There's blokes, says Bill, what thinks we live
 In luxury in the Army.
 And when I thinks of what I had
 When Mother cooked for me and Dad
And sees the stew the cook-boys give—
 Strikes me some blokes is barmy.
Lor luv a duck ! says Bill to me.
Gorblimey, Bill ! says I.

PRESENTATION PARADE IN DELHI

Photo shows *the Viceroy presents the Victoria Crosses to the semi-veiled widow of Company Havildar Major Chhelu Ram, who was killed during the advance of the 5th Indian Infantry Brigade in Tunisia on April* 19, 1943.

Jemadar Gaje Ghale, V.C., shakes hands with a school girl Ruth Gibbou.

There's blokes, says Bill, what thinks it's sport
To be among the mortars
And hear the shells go Crump ! and Boom !
Just where you've made a little room
Inside a dug-out of a sort
To do for winter quarters.
Lor luv a duck ! says Bill to me.
Gorblimey, Bill ! says I.

—*R.G.*

"WALTHAMSTOW" AT OOTY

HOLIDAY HOUSE FOR R.A.F. OFFICERS

ARE you from England? Then you'll enjoy "Walthamstow" holiday home in Ootacamund for officers of the Royal Air Force. Your first glimpse will be from the bottom of the winding, hilly lane. High up above a flower-starred bank stands the big white house.

Before entering, pause by the sun-bathing lawn to view the far-reaching Nilgiris you are now among—the 'blue hills' that borrow their hue from faint morning mists and the 'blue (eucalyptus) gums' abounding with their healthy, pungent odour. Slightly to the right is the natty town with its shops, cinemas, cafes. You are more than 7,000 feet above sea level.

Ooty you'll soon find has all facilities for golfing and for riding over the rolling downs, while in season its mountain lakes offer fishing and some sailing. You may further indulge your taste for country life at the meet, hunt the jack with beagles that are trained to perfection and drilled like soldiers.

And what of the house itself? Scent of roses, brilliance of many flowers for a moment fill you with an awful nostalgia . . At the end of a sunny hall two fellows vie at table tennis, others at darts, but you are whisked off to approve your bedroom. Streaming sunshine draws you to the wide windows. You look far and breathe deeply.

At this point you observe that your room is gaily matted. You leap on the bed: the springs respond! And the modern bathroom—if you've lately left a hut or tent you may feel disposed to spend your entire leave immersed in a tub of tingling water!

Dances are held and you may throw your party in the spacious lounge whose french windows open on the garden. There is a second sitting room and library: indeed, the atmosphere of Walthamstow is that of a well-appointed, folly club. Arrangements are in the hands of a lady superintendent whose concern is vitamins and well-balanced meals, while individual needs are cared for. Just steal a visit to the pantry—a completely flyproof chamber. Shelves are loaded with more nostalgic things—sprouts, artichokes, cauliflour. A huge brisket is pickling, a whole sheep hanging.

Now for your little changes. When not justifying that golf handicap you may go to Ooty's favourite rendezvous for "elevenses"! or for tea or cocktails then on to a dance. There are ideal walks. At Charing Cross-complete with obelisk—you board the bus for Wellington (oh, charm of homeside names in this 'England in ideal conditions!') and Coonoor two thousand feet lower into the fertile hills; for Kotagiri with its golf and bright little club, the tea plantations and coffee estates of those who also serve. And, should you know a planter owning a car you, as a Royal Air Force Officer on leave, may claim two gallons of petrol per leave or spins in his buggy.

WAR-TIME HARDSHIPS

By RAO BAHADUR G. A. NATESAN

"WAR-TIME hardships" is quite an understatement for the conditions of life necessitated by a war of great magnitude like the one that is being waged now. And frankly, what could we expect from conditions so utterly at variance with life in peace time?

It is a truism to say that modern warfare is different from the wars of old. It is no longer confined to the theatres of war. It embraces whole communities and all the citizens. Suffering and sacrifice are not confined to the actual combatants in the field of battle, but are shared by the whole population in varying degrees. We are trying to resign ourselves to the inevitable conditions of the new life, and indeed attempting to acquiesce in it with fortitude, and even with a certain degree of cheerfulness and a sense of humour. We have learnt to do without many things which once we thought were indispensable. We have learnt to give up so many of our peace-time amenities and luxuries. We are learning the virtues of the simple and strenuous life which has been forced on the people as a whole. It is proving a severe strain, but it is none the less a wholesome discipline.

Since the outbreak of the war, and more particularly for the last two or three years, hardly a day passes when one does not meet a friend or neighbour who does not grumble about the hardships and irksome restrictions to which he is subject.

A.R.P. REGULATIONS

The A.R.P. regulations have caused many a murmur. How can we drive in a road or even walk in the streets in utter darkness? How can we possibly live in a house without sufficient lighting? These are cries which have been dinned into our ears.

The curtailment of facilities for railway travel, the slowness of the trains and the increase in railway fares have called forth vigorous protests.

The buses are overcrowded and citizens have to wait an unconscionably long time before they are able to find accommodation.

Car-owners not only smart under the reduced petrol supply but find considerable difficulty in getting spare parts.

Foodstuffs are hard to get, and when available, a very heavy price indeed has to be paid for them.

The shortage of fuel is great; and many men and women have to wait for hours in a firewood depot and return in utter disgust, unable to obtain even a small quantity.

You don't get the kind of clothing you are accustomed to, and if you do succeed in getting a semblance of it, it is certainly at an abnormal price.

RATIONING

The rationing of foodstuffs and the restrictions on dinner parties during marriages and festivals are subjects of serious complaint.

It is really a pang to garden-owners hitherto accustomed to grow beautiful flowers, to be compelled to convert their lawns into vegetable gardens.

Added to the increase in the cost of transport, foodstuffs and clothing, there has come an increase in taxation, direct and indirect.

This does not exhaust the list of complaints one reads and hears in wartime; but they are sufficient to give an idea of the situation, as one finds it.

If companionship in distress is any consolation, we must remember that people in other countries are undergoing worse troubles. Thanks to Providence! Our country has not yet become a theatre of War; and barring occasional air-raids on some coastal towns, we have thus far been saved from the horrors and atrocities to which people in war-ridden countries are subjected.

BRITISH EXAMPLE

Take the case of the British people themselves. We have it on authority (*A people at War*) that in Great Britain people are enduring severe hardships, much actual danger and many irksome restrictions. Working hours are long; leisure time is short and war-time duties have been shouldered by every class of people. Yet, the courage, determination and the cheerfulness of the people have not failed them.

LIGHTING RESTRICTIONS

To take the lighting restrictions first: With the coming of night, every home in Britain becomes an island lost in a sea of darkness. A policeman with a red lamp conducts walkers across the road in the blackout.

Citizens who were hitherto hugging their pound notes and cheque books, have now to preserve and carry with care their coupons and ration books. Food and clothes rationing means that all must share alike from the supplies available.

Fifty-two coupons for clothing for a year is the only allowance for adults. A man's shirt and tie cost him six coupons, his suit 26; which is exactly half his total allowance for one year.

WOMEN'S LOT

Women fare no better. A woman's woollen dress consumes 11 coupons, cotton dress 7, a pair of artificial silk stockings 3, and 5 coupons have to be given for obtaining a pair of shoes.

Housewives have to queue-up for advice and guidance on food matters at one of the many Food Advice Bureaux established near the main entrance to all shops in many towns. They have to take good care not to permit waste of any kind. For, it is a punishable offence to waste food or paper. And the poor housewife, after a long and embarrassing shopping, has to endure a tiring wait for a bus, as services have been reduced in town and country.

Every woman in Britain between the ages of 20 and 25 is registered, and with the exception of those working 55 hours a week or with young children, may be called on for Fire Guard duties up to 48 hours a month. From shops and offices in the towns, Britain's women have come forward to replace the men on the farms. Girls who worked in beauty parlours are driving Diesel-engine tractors; shorthand typists are tending cattle; chorus girls are working back-breaking hours thinning the beet crops. The Women's Land Army is now over 50,000 strong and is growing rapidly.

Every able-bodied male citizen in Britain between the ages of 18 and 60 carries out some essential War duty, up to 48 hours a month in addition to his daily work. Most of them do much more, as Home Guards, as members of the Royal Observer Corps, or National Fire Service, as Wardens, as Members of a First Aid or Ambulance Unit, as Fire Guards or as Special Police. Each of these duties involves specialized training and frequent exercises.

HOW LONDON TOOK IT

For over two years, in Britain, says the writer, hardly a night passed without people being killed and homes being

GREEK RED CROSS THANKS MADRAS!

The following letter, dated 29th December 1943, has been received from Dr. A. P. Cawndias, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., President, Greek Red Cross Executive Committee, 17, Bentick Street, London W.1., by the Treasurer, Greek Relief Appeal Fund, c/o Imperial Bank of India, Madras :—

In confirming my cable of to-day's date acknowledging receipt of £10,000 through the Imperial Bank of India, London, from the Greek Relief Appeal Fund in Madras, I would like to express the sincere thanks of the Greek Red Cross to all the kind helpers for their generous support of our worthy cause.

In the tragic days through which we are now passing, the magnificent co-operation of our friends both far and near to assist in relieving the sufferings of our compatriots is a very great encouragement, giving us renewed spirit to carry on our difficult task. Believe me, the wonderful help you are giving will never be forgotten by the Greeks.

destroyed; and night after night, bombing continued. The German High Command set out to break the morale of a whole people by a ruthless attack on their great capital city. Huge areas were swept by fire. Historic buildings were destroyed. Night after night, week after week, month after month, the attack was maintained. But the people of London held on grimly. Their resolves were not weakened. Their spirits were not dismayed. And to-day the devastation in London and many other cities in Britain has become the symbol of a people's will to resist, and of their determination to go on to the end.

No petrol is obtainable in Britain for pleasure motoring. Theatres and cinemas close early, so that audiences can be back at their posts in case of air raids. Luxury articles and expensive clothes are no longer being made. A purchase tax of 100 per cent on the wholesale price has been imposed on goods such as silk dresses, leather trunks and bags, fur coats, cut glass and jewellery.

Restaurant meals are giving way to meals in community feeding centres. At these feeding centres, thousands of inexpensive meals are served daily for war workers. The elaborate menus of peace-time have given way to a simple card, giving the three-course meal now served in all restaurants.

Excursion trains have been cancelled. Passenger trains have made way for goods trains. Seaside towns cannot be entered without a pass from military or police authorities.

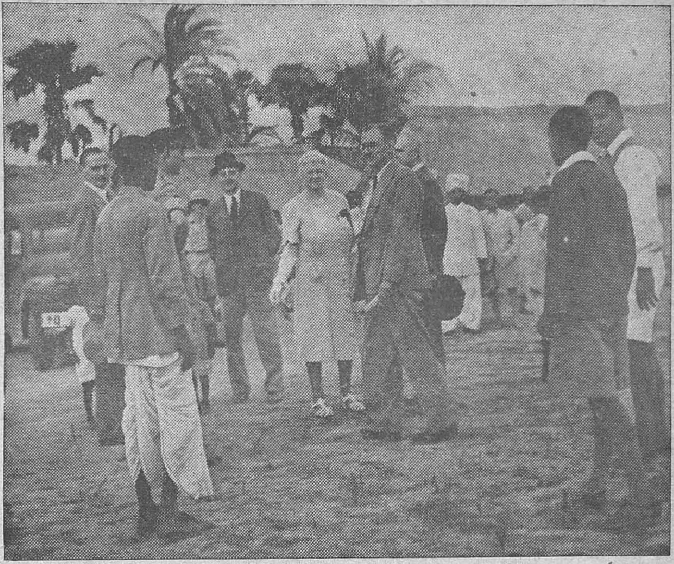
The British citizen has for many years been the most highly taxed wage-earner in the world. He remains so in war-time. To-day a single man earning £500 a year, pays £156–2–6, i.e., nearly one-third of his income, in tax. A married couple with two children, earning £8,000, pays £5,082. The standard rate of income-tax is 10 shillings in the pound, rising to 19 shillings, 6 pence in the pound on the higher incomes. Four million wage-earners who did not pay direct income-tax in peace-time, now return an assessment.

In spite of heavy taxation, the British people have already put over four thousand million pounds into National Savings.

BRITISH WORKERS DO THEIR PART

Now, a word about the British worker. The British Trade Union movement has grown out of the struggle to protect certain fundamental rights, viz., the right of each trade to decide its own conditions of employment, the right of the worker to limit the hours he works, the right of the worker to change his employment if he so decides. All these rights for which they have fought so hard, the British Trade Unions have voluntarily surrendered for the duration. Strikes are no longer allowed and that by agreement of the Labour Unions themselves. Limitation of workers' hours to 48 a week has been suspended in all vital War factories. Long hours are being worked willingly under the hard and exacting conditions of many industries.

This catalogue of hardships is by no means exhaustive, but merely illustrative. Let it not however be thought that it is recited in a spirit of complaint. It is merely an attempt to picture War-time life to-day, almost all the world over. It would be churlish to complain of the absence of mere amenities and pleasantries of peace-time, and even the rigours of civic life, when we know that there are men who are risking their very lives on land, sea and air, in order to preserve our precious heritage for generations yet to come. It is an ennobling thought that we are contemporaries of such men and are privileged to share not only the glory of a great tradition, but also the burden, however small, each in his own way, of the responsibilities and hardships of these stirring times.—*A talk broadcast from A.I.R., Madras, on Monday, Jan. 24.*



VICEROY'S TOUR.—Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Wavell recently concluded a tour of Bihar, Bengal and Assam. Photo shows *Lord and Lady Wavell at a relief camp in Diamond Harbour Subdivision, Bengal.*

TO CERTAIN EXPERIMENTERS WITH TRUTH

Rondeau

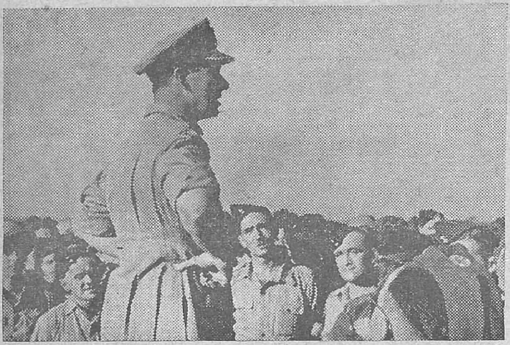
Explain away your cowardice.
Tell us how Peace and Mercy kiss
  In Co-prosperity's delight,
  So that you have no need to fight
For things you clearly would not miss—

Justice and Freedom's fortalice,
The right to speak (or even hiss)
  As you are moved by truth (or spite).
      Explain away!

Perhaps it would not be amiss
To tell the Chinese of the bliss
  The Japanese have brought, or might
  Hereafter bring, if treated right.
Their wounds and woes you might like this
      Explain away.

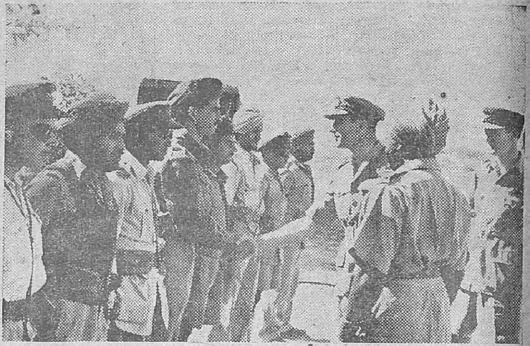
—*R.G.*

LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN'S

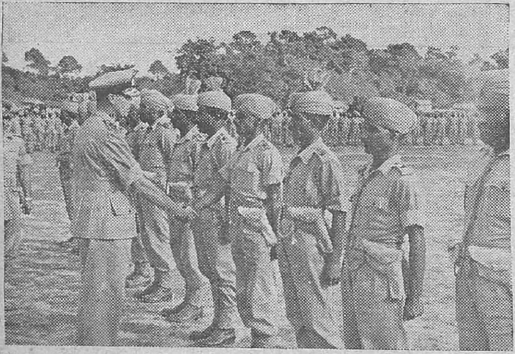


Thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen were visited by Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Commander, South-East Asia Command in a rapid three-day tour of the Arakan front. The Supreme Commander visited troops in some of our most forward position.

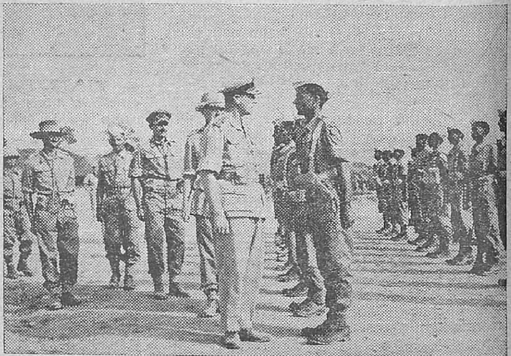
Royal Air Force personnel on a forward air-field in Arakan being addressed by Lord Louis.



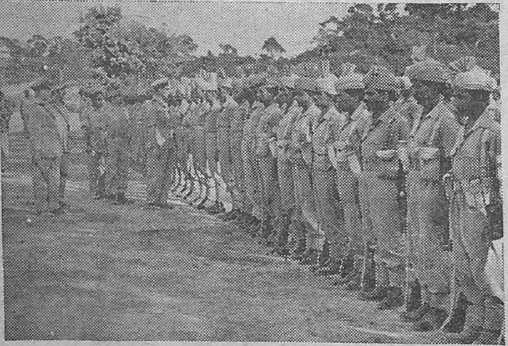
Indian Air Force Officers on a forward air-field being introduced to Lord Louis.



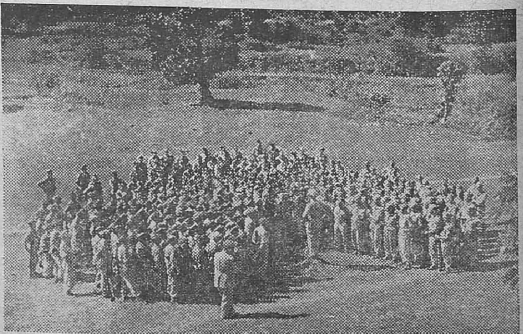
Lord Louis meets V.C. Os. of an Indian Regiment.



A fine body of Indian troops being inspected by the Supreme Commander.

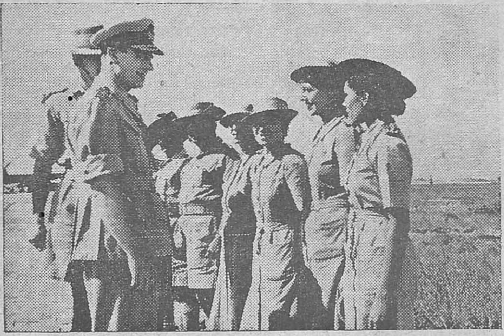


Inspecting an Indian battalion somewhere in Arakan.

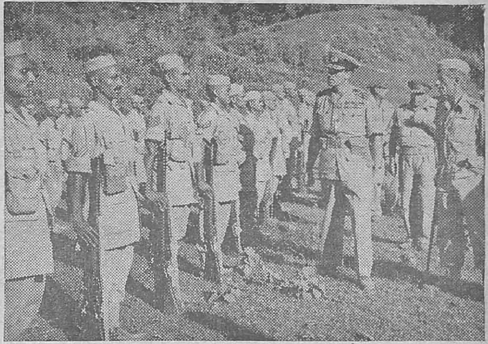


A batch of British troops being addressed by Lord Louis in a clearing in forward area.

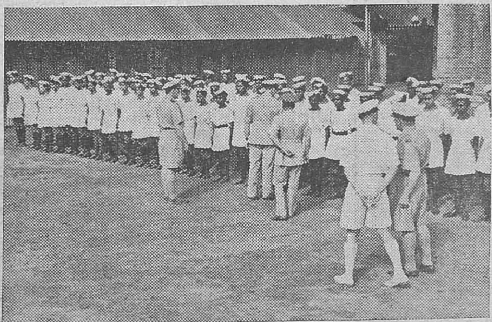
TOUR OF THE ARAKAN FRONT



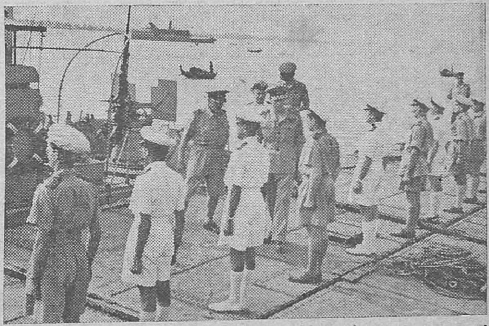
Hospitals in the forward areas were also visited by the Supreme Commander and here the Supreme Commander is seen talking to a sister of I.M.N.S.



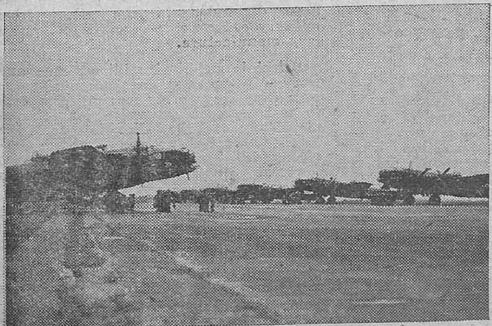
Indian troops back from a recent patrol action with the Japanese being inspected by the Supreme Commander.



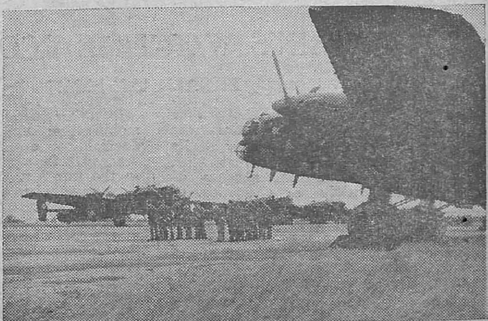
Lord Louis Mountbatten inspecting ratings of the Royal Indian Navy serving with Coastal Forces.



The Supreme Commander inspecting officers of the Royal Indian Navy during his visit to the Coastal Forces.

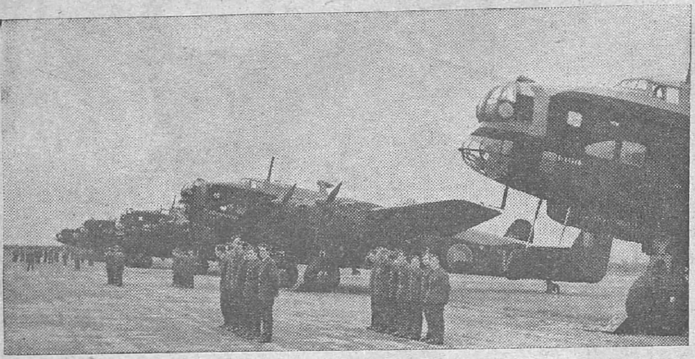


His Highness the Jam Sahib of Nawanagar inspected a Madras Bomber Squadron "somewhere in England." Photo shows *a view of the scene before the arrival of His Highness.*

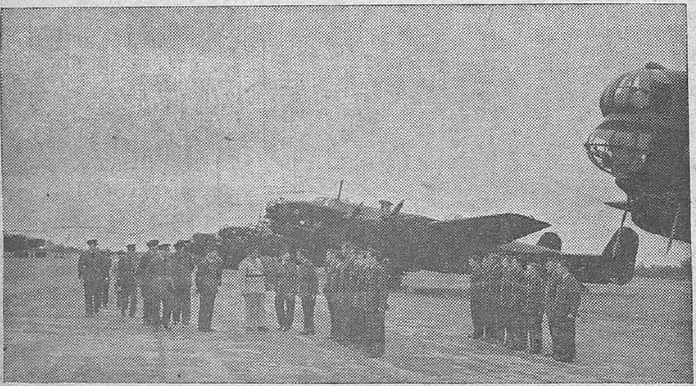


Another view of the scene before His Highness the Jam Sahib's arrival.

VISIT TO A MADRAS BOMBER SQUADRON



His Highness the Jam Sahib of Nawanagar paid a visit to the Madras Bomber Squadron "somewhere in England." Photo shows *crews and machines lined up on the tarmac awaiting the arrival of the Maharajah.*



His Highness inspected the crew of the Madras Bomber Squadron. Photo shows *a member of one of the crews being presented to His Highness.*

BRITAIN'S WAR-TIME ECONOMY

By DONALD TYERMAN

THE main feature of Britain's economy today is that the war machine is now running smoothly at its highest speed. It is this fact that accounts for the unusual absence of criticisms, constructive or otherwise, of the war economic policy which for four years served as a spur to greater effort. It accounts also for the predominance in economic and financial discussions of post-war themes.

Attention is focussed on Britain's economic situation and opportunities after the war, not because the war is regarded as over bar the shouting, but because for the most part shouting is regarded as no longer necessary.

In other words, the stage of total mobilisation and maximum war production so often heralded has been reached. In a pregnant speech earlier in the war Mr. Churchill spoke of three successive phases of war production: phase of preparation and equipment when very little is produced; phase of movement when a lot is produced; the final phase when as much as physically possible is produced. After a period longer than the whole length of the last war, this final phase has been reached.

A clear sign that the turning of attention in discussions to post-war problems does not imply any distraction from war effort is that it is not accompanied by any pressure for relaxation of war austerity. There is no demand for a reversal of the engine.

1944—HARDEST YEAR

It is accepted that the war production must run at top speed until the war is won; that there can be no restoration of civilian production until the phase of demobilisation starts; that, in fact, 1944 will be the hardest year of the war in terms of toil, sweat and short commons.

It is for this reason that some surprise is being expressed here and there about the cabled and not very specific reports from the United States to the effect that American war production is now so large that it may be possible to switch back a part of the output capacity to supply civilian needs.

Striking differences between British and American war economy should be appreciated. Britain's wartime productive effort has been achieved in the main by curtailment of consumption and by drafts on capital assets. The staggering output of the United States, on the other hand, has been mainly achieved by an actual increase in the total production; by British standards only the fringe of the civilian consumption has been shorn away, yet the United States is producing sufficient in every category of war equipment to decide the issue in two total wars—in Europe and Asia.

It is, of course, widely realized in Britain that in the final phase of producing any article of war equipment, a point inevitably comes at which enough has been produced for equipment and maintenance stocks. This has happened in 1943 in several branches of the British war equipment. But when this happens in Britain the choice is not between continuing to produce this particular article and going back to civilian work; the labour, plant and materials are too urgently needed, as soons as free, for production of some other war article which is not in ample supply. In fact, when war historians write the history of Britain in 1943, the main theme—after the achievement of total mobilisation—will be tansfer of great masses of labour and capacity from old to new tasks as the strategic plans have demanded in the main from military ordnance to aircraft and ancillary manufacture.

Britain's mobilised millions, men and women, when fully engaged must serve as a busy stage army moving from task to task as each successive job is completed—under the direction of the Ministry of Labour and National Service which has been one of the most powerful single factors in Britain's achievements.

In the balance between war and civilian production, there is no financial pressure in Britain for an increased flow of civilian goods and services. In other words, there has been no inflationary increase in the flow of purchasing power (after taxes and savings) threatening the whole structure of wages and prices in the absence of sufficient goods and services to take the flow up at the current prices.

NEW C.-IN-C. OF ARMY IN S.-E. ASIA COMMAND

GENERAL SIR GEORGE GIFFARD, K.C.B., D.S.O.

GENERAL SIR GEORGE JAMES GIFFARD, K.C.B., D.S.O., whose appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Army Group in South-East Asia was announced on Monday (January 24) has spent most of his career in West and East Africa. He was born on 27th September 1886, and began his army service as a 2/Lt. in the Queen's Regiment in 1906. He was promoted Colonel in 1923 and in 1936 he became a Major-General, in 1938 Lt.-Genl. and full General on December 12, 1941. He passed the course at the Imperial Defence College and had the rare distinction of graduating at both the Staff College and the Royal Naval Staff College.

General Giffard's association with Africa began in 1911 when he was employed with the King's African Rifles. He became temporary Lt.-Col. and from 1918 to 1919 was Column Commander with the rank of Temporary Colonel. He subsequently became Staff Officer to the Inspector-General, W.A.F.F., as G.S.O. 2. In 1933, he became G.S.O. 1, Aldershot Command, and served in this position until 1936. He was A.D.C. to the King from 1935 to 1936. From 1936 to 1938 he was Inspector-General, R.W.A.F.F. and the King's African Rifles, and from 1938 to 1939 he was Inspector-General, African Colonial Forces. In July 1939 he was appointed Military Secretary to the Secretary of State for War and held this post until February 1940. He then became G.O.C.-in-C. Palestine and Trans Jordan, and held this appointment until June 26, 1940, when he went to West Africa as G.O.C.-in-C., a position he held up to July 11, 1942.

Gen. Giffard is in a unique position in the regular British Army in that he had command of operational units in one of the few jungle campaigns of the last war. Against the Germans under General Von. Lettow Vorbeck in East Africa he operated with mobile self-supporting columns in country not dissimilar to the jungles of Burma and encompassed the defeat of the enemy in that area.

From 1914 to 1921 he took part in operations against the Mereham tribe and received a medal and clasp. He also saw service in British, German and Portuguese East Africa, in Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia from 1914 to 1918. He was wounded in this campaign and was four times mentioned in despatches. He was decorated with the French War Cross and the Military Order of Avis (Officer) and also received the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the D.S.O. A further mention in despatches appeared in the *London Gazette* of April 1, 1941. Gen. Giffard has until lately been in acting command of the Eastern Army.

There's blokes, says Bill, what thinks the Jap
Is full of fine bonhummy.
I met a chap what really thought
They're treating Burmese as they ought.
He was a blinking rummy chap,
Or fishy more than rummy.
Lor luv a duck ! says Bill to me.
Gorblimey, Bill ! says I.

NEW COMMANDER OF FOURTEENTH ARMY

LIEUT.-GENERAL W. J. SLIM, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

LIEUT.-GENERAL WILLIAM JOSEPH SLIM C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., whose reappointment as Commander of the Fourteenth Army was announced on Monday (January 24) was born in August 1891. He was first commissioned in August 1914. He passed through the Imperial Defence College and graduated from Staff College.

He joined the Indian Army in 1920, serving with 6th Gurkha Rifles. During the succeeding years he held various staff appointments and attended the Staff College, Quetta, in 1927. In 1934–35 he was instructor at the Staff College, Camberley. He commanded a battalion of 7th Gurkha Rifles in 1938 and in 1939 he became Commandant of the Senior Officer's School at Belgaum.

In June 1939, he became temporary brigadier and on the outbreak of war was appointed to command the 10th Indian Infantry Brigade of the 5th Indian Division. The Brigade was in the first attack on the Italians at Gallabat and thereafter in the advance into Eritrea, where General Slim was wounded by machine-gun fire from Italian aircraft. General Slim was then appointed to command one of the Indian Divisions which went to Iraq at the time of the rebellion, drove back the Vichy French in North Syria and later invaded Northern Persia and reached Teheran. After this General Slim went still farther north to Kasvin to meet the Russian Army representatives with whom peace terms were jointly arranged. In January this year he was awarded the D.S.O. for services in Iraq, Syria and Persia.

In March 1942, he was made Acting Lieut.-General and appointed to command 1st Burma Corps. On the evacuation of Burma he was appointed in June 1942, to command a corps in India.

In the Great War Lieut.-General Slim served in France, Belgium, Gallipoli and Iraq. He was wounded and won the M.C.

There's blokes, says Bill, what thinks their skins
Is precious as a jewel.
But when you looks you sees a squirt
Not quite so good as honest dirt.
And white or black for just two pins
I'd beat them up like gruel.
Lor luv a duck ! says Bill to me.
Gorblimey, Bill ! says I.

There's blokes, says Bill, what thinks the Hun
Will treat them like a brother.
To-day's newspiper says, I see,
This Gandhi chap wants us to be
All pals together, having fun—
It's such a shime to have this bother.
Lor luv a duck ! says Bill to me.
Gorblimey, Bill ! says I.

—*R. G.*

Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser (left), *Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet, greets Vice-Admiral Golovko* (right), *Commander-in-Chief, Soviet Northern Fleet, aboard his flagship, H.M.S.* Duke of York, *on his arrival in Soviet waters shortly after the successful action against the* Scharnhorst. (A radio photograph.)

LENIN AND THE RED ARMY

By I. MINTZ

THE organization of an army with its corps of officers and a proper machinery of mobilization is a task which demands the maximum effort of a country over a course of many years. So history teaches us. The creation of an army in a short time is a feat of national energy and a tribute to the genius of its leaders. It was without army and without arms that the Soviet Government faced the world in 1918 when Germans treacherously fell upon the Soviet land. They already saw themselves masters of resources and foodstuffs of Russia and had visions of world domination. "First Russia and then the whole of Europe" bragged German generals.

Over thirty German divisions invaded Soviet Russia. It seemed that nothing could stop the German hordes in their advance eastward. But the road to the realization of the Germans' schemes was barred by a force that seemingly rose out of the ground. These were the first detachments of the Red Army.

But this was not a miracle. Right from the very establishment of the Soviet rule, Lenin's far-sighted genius had detected the coming danger; he saw that the German beast of prey was preparing to pounce upon the young Soviet republic. The few thousand Red Guards, who had secured triumph in the Revolution, were not enough to contend against a Germany armed to teeth. A big regular army was needed and Lenin at once set about forming one. He called military men together and discussed with them plans for the creation of an army; he studied the regulations of the Red Guard detachments and familiarized himself with the State divisions of the old army. At length, on January 28, 1918, Lenin signed a decree for the formation of a workers' and peasants' Red Army.

The entire country enthusiastically supported Lenin's decision. Thousands of volunteers flocked to the new army. Finest sons of people joined its ranks.

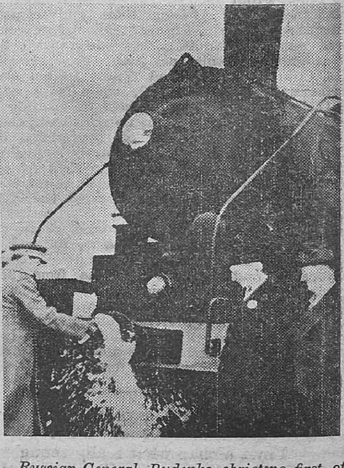
DAY OF BAPTISM

However, it was not the date of the signing of the decree which became the anniversary of the Red Army's formation. Over its cradle waved standards of battle and thunders of war resounded. It was the day of the Red Army's baptism to fire which came to be celebrated as its birthday. Germans had seized Pskov and were moving on Petrograd. But, beyond Pskov, German advanced forces collided with the newly-formed Soviet regiments marching from Petrograd. This was February 23, 1918. Germans' dream, of mastering Petrograd and then hurling all their forces for the subjugation of Europe melted away like snow in sun rays. Germans were forced to maintain a good forty divisions on the Soviet frontier; in other words Germany was virtually compelled to fight a war on two fronts.

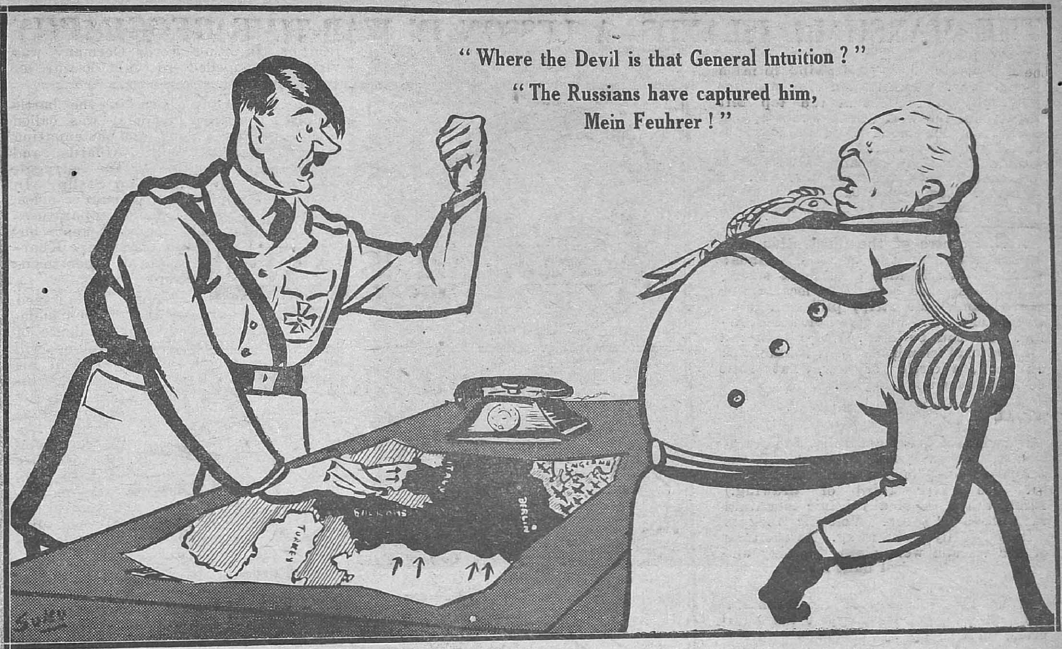
The Red Army, born in the battle against German invaders, was called upon to fight a long and attenuating struggle against White Guards and forces of intervention. The struggle was directed by Lenin and Stalin. In the room adjacent to Lenin's office, telegraphic and telephone apparatuses were installed. The operators kept contact with Petrograd, Tsaritsyn, Kharkov, Smolensk and scores of other towns and sectors of the front.

Lenin received reports and issued hundreds of orders and recommendations. The published correspondence of Lenin on military subjects alone will fill a large volume and if we add his passionate appeals to the people, his speeches on the Red Army and his reports on the country's military situation we get a good six volumes. As head of the Council of Workers' and Peasants' Defence, set up on November 13, 1918, Lenin concentrated in his hands all the problems of war—mobilization of the industry and sources of supply; the operation of railways and, above all, the formation and replenishment of the Red Army.

Lenin drew up strategical plans of the Red Army. The foe was pressing from all the sides: from east, west, north and south. But where would the main blow be struck? Where should the main forces be directed? In the spring of 1919, Kolchak was moving down on the Volga from which the march on Moscow was planned. At the same time Yudenich's White Guards reached the gates of Petrograd. To surrender the city would mean forfeiting at least fifteen per cent of the Soviet industry which, even as it was, could barely supply the army with ammunition.



Russian General Rudenko christens first of 800 *locomotives built by United States for Soviet Government.* (A radio photograph.)



—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

There were some who recommended concentrating all the forces outside Petrograd. But Lenin was of a different opinion. Yudenich's foray was an adventurous gamble, Lenin argued; he had no rear area in which to develop the campaign. But Kolchak was a different matter—he had behind him Siberia and the Urals with their big resources manpower and raw materials. The chief danger lay in the east.

FINEST FORCES

At Lenin's orders the finest forces of the Red Army were hurled against Kolchak. The documents and admissions of the enemies subsequently confirmed how right he was. Yudenich's advance against Petrograd was intended only as a diversion; Lenin was always prompt to espy danger and immediately took the most energetic measures to avert it. At his orders, new divisions, reinforcements and ammunition were rushed to the threatened sectors. Lenin personally verified which divisions were dispatched and how soon they would arrive. Wherever danger threatened most and wherever the fate of the country was at issue and a decisive turn in the tide of affairs had to be secured, Lenin sent his trusted associate—Joseph Stalin. All the decisive operations, all the plans for big battles, which resulted in victory, were worked out and carried into effect by Stalin. The defence of Tsaritsyn against bands of the German agent Krasnov, the liberation of the Ukraine and Belo Russia from German invaders, the defence of Petrograd and the defeat of Deniking's hordes, these were all organized under the direct captaincy of Stalin.

MILITARY INVENTION

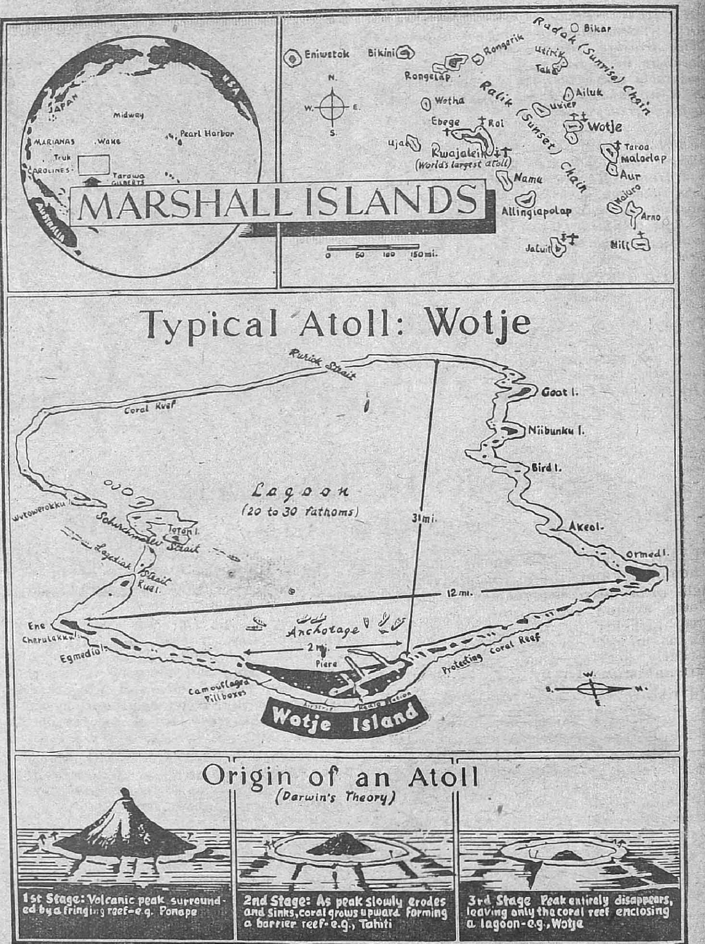
Lenin kept a close eye on the development of military invention. Engineers often came to see him regarding projects for new innovations. He also kept a close watch on the changes in the enemy's tactics. It was Lenin who conceived the idea of employing aircraft against cavalry in which the enemy possessed an overwhelming superiority. The leader of the Red Army insisted on the creation of a Soviet cavalry force sufficient to nullify this superiority.

On whatever subject Lenin spoke in the public—whether it was on public education, industry or culture—he invariably demanded that the formation of the Red Army be expedited and its might strengthened: " with a strong Red Army we shall be invincible. Without a strong army we shall inevitably fall a victim to Kolchak, Denikin, Yudenich "—this was his constant cry.

This call became a command for the Soviet people. Exhausted by the world War and then by three years of Civil War, Soviet Russia was hurled far back in its development even compared with the old backward Russia of the Tsarist times. Could an exhausted country maintain an army, and, what is more, an army answering to modern military standards? Many foreign observers affirmed that the attempt was futile. But the Soviet people, led by Stalin, clenched their teeth and rolled up their sleeves; and proceeded to restore and then to reconstruct the national economy. Five-year Plans of Stalin radically changed the face of the Soviet country, and this led to fundamental reconstruction of the Red Army. It was supplied with the most up-to-date weapons. Stalin, Lenin's great colleague who, together with him, had created the Red Army and, together with him, vanquished the enemy hordes, put Lenin's commandment into practice, and the Red Army became a formidable force.

The task of ridding the peoples of the Soviet Union and all freedom-loving nations, from the brown scourge and saving them from the violence and rapine of Hitlerite brigands is the noblest task which ever confronted the armed forces of any country. Shaped and moulded by Lenin and Stalin, surrounded by the affection of Soviet people and inspired by the support of progressive mankind, the Red Army, led by Stalin and together with its gallant Allies, will certainly accomplish its historic emancipatory mission.

THE MARSHALL ISLANDS—A LESSON IN WAR-TIME GEOGRAPHY



THE accompanying drawing forms a geology. The lesson in wartime geography and globe at the top left represents the world as it would appear seen from the moon when the moon is directly over the centre of the Pacific Ocean. The small rectangle encloses the Marshall Islands, an important scene of fighting. The same area is shown in an enlargement at the right of the globe, with the tiny islands named.

At the centre of the illustration is a representation of one of these islands: Wotje, which is known to be a strong Japanese defence base. The locations of the Japanese air strip, pillboxes, radio station and piers are given on the drawing. As can be seen, Wotje is not a conventional island, but what is known as an atoll, a circle of low, flat reefs enclosing a shallow lagoon.

ATOLL

Darwin, the great naturalist and evolutionist, as a youth formulated the accepted theory of how atolls were formed. (See lower third of drawing.) First, the peak of a volcanic mountain rose above the sea. Volcanic rock is soft and easily wears away. As the cone of the volcano were down, the tiny animals that make coral built a reef around the outside (second stage).

Eventually, the top of the mountain sank out of sight leaving just the coral reefs, broken up by occasional straits through which the tide ran in and out of the lagoon at the centre.

Atolls are important to-day because many of the bases which lie between the United Nations and Tokyo are built on them. An atoll has almost no commercial value. The limit of vegetable life is a palm tree or two. Rarely is its surface more than seven or eight feet above high tide. Where it is (note black areas in the drawing of Wotje), however, there is often an excellent site to build an airfield, establish an anchorage and dig defences.

The atoll then becomes a formidable defence position. In taking Tarawa atoll in the Gilberts (the Gilberts are now in United Nations hands; see the globe for their position), the United States Marines paid a heavy price in casualties. The atolls of the Marshalls seem to be next on the Allies' list. Almost every day United States Army Liberators bomb the Marshalls; sometimes twice a day. The big bombers pummel Wotje's aerodrome, tear up Taroa's runways, buildings and anchorage, damage Jaluit's shore defences, all of which were secretly installed since the Japs took over the Marshalls under a mandate from the League of Nations in 1920 and began to fortify them contrary to the mandate agreement.

GEOGRAPHY OF THE MARSHALLS

The Marshalls consist of 33 atolls with a total land area of only 160 square miles scattered over 150,000 square miles of sea. They are strung in a double chain: the Radak, or Sunrise, group on the east; the Ralik, or Sunset, group on the west. Twenty years ago when the Japs took over, the atolls had a population of 10,000 Micronesian fishermen and boatmen.

To-day the Japs are the only ones who know the true strength of the Marshalls' defence. United States reconnaissance, dating from the Navy's first raid on the islands in January 1942, has put the main Jap works on five atolls whose names are worth remembering because they occur so frequently in the daily war communiqués. The five are:

Kwajalein, world's largest atoll, an 80-mile string of islet is the hub of Marshall fortifications. It has a major airfield (on Roi islet), a seaplane anchorage and submarine facilities. In its tremendous lagoon, raiding United States planes have caught cruisers, carriers, seagoing merchantmen and many varieties of inter-island craft.

Wotje, 31 miles long, a cluster of 60 wooded islands, has important runways, hangars, a radio tower, docks for small ships.

Maloelap, 32 miles long, densely populated, has an airfield (on Taroa island) big enough for bombers.

Jaluit, 33 miles long, administrative centre, has an airfield and a big-ship harbour.

Mili, 23 miles long, a nest of 100 islets, has a strongly garrisoned airfield, a lagoon that provides good anchorage for surface vessels.

HE ALONE KNOWS

HIDDEN TREASURE IN RANGOON !—Somewhere in Rangoon to-day lies hidden treasure—real Scotch *whisky. And somewhere in Indian R.A.F. Flight Sergeant pleasurably anticipates the day when he can dig it up, and stand his squadron friends "burra pegs all round."*

Early in 1942 Flight Sergeant W. Cummings,—"Lofty" to his pals—of 6, Horsham Road, Handcroft, Sussex, was serving with a fighter squadron, which was based on Rangoon harassing the advancing Japanese. Before the Japs occupied the city, "Lofty," with uncanny foresight, buried two cases of real scotch. On a scrap of paper he sketched a rough map showing the location of his buried treasure.

To-day, "Lofty" carefully preserves that scrap of paper in his pocket wallet, firmly resolved that when he gets back to Rangoon he will use it to produce the goods and drink to the damnation of the retreating Japs.

JOKERS OF THE R.A.F.

By RALPH MICHAELIS

FLYING against the enemy has its humours; and there are plenty of laughs to be heard over enemy territory.

Going around the various Royal Air Force airfields in the course of my work as an air correspondent, I am constantly hearing about the deeds of some fantastic joker.

I'd like to tell you a few of them.

A Sunderland flying boat sighted a German battleship escorted by a couple of destroyers, off the coast of Norway.

The battleship challenged the Sunderland with the code message "I.K." The Sunderland crew had not the faintest idea what the message meant. So the Captain told them to reply—"I.K." But this did not satisfy the Germans. They challenged a second time with "I.K." and—for the second time—the Sunderland replied—"I.K." Back came the methodical Germans for a third time with the challenge "I.K."

This time the Sunderland Captain could not resist making the obvious reply.

"Oh, tell them nuts," he said.

And so the radio operator signalled back, "Nuts."

There was a short pause while the Germans got out their secret ciphers and started to decode this cryptic message.

"It took them exactly thirty seconds to find out the meaning of 'nuts'," the Captain told me, "then they let us have 'everything'."

The crew of this particular Sunderland were a famous bunch of humourists.

One afternoon they were flying low over a Norwegian fjord when they spotted a couple of very fat German officers idling in a row boat.

"Let's scare the lives out of those two birds," said the Captain, and he dived towards the row boat.

As soon as the Germans spotted the Sunderland they grabbed their oars and started to row up the fjord at a tremendous pace. They had not gone far when one of them missed the water altogether with his oar and went head over heels backwards into the lap of his brother officer.

The sight of these two fat Germans trying to race the airplane up the fjord struck the gunners as so funny that they had difficulty in sighting their guns.

* * *

One of the radio operators in a night bomber group is a great practical joker.

One of his jokes is to tune into a German receiving station and tell them he thinks about them. In fact his paradies of Hitler speeches are known from Hamburg to the Ruhr, to the vast entertainment of his own crew, and the annoyance of the helpless enemy.

But his best joke is the one which I have recorded in my book "From Bird Cage to Battle Plane - a History of the R.A.F." which was published recently in New York. Here it is:

One night the bomber in which this radio operator was flying was caught in a cone of searchlights. Anti-aircraft shells were bursting all around, and the pilot was throwing the aircraft about in all directions in an attempt to get away from the searchlights. But he was unsuccessful. More searchlights fastened on the airplane, so that the crew had to shade their eyes from the blinding glare.

The radio operator turned the knobs on his radio set and tuned in to the German station down below. And all at once the Germans listening in their control room heard the following announcement:—

"Achtung! Achtung! Germany calling! Germany calling! Here is Goering! Put out those damn lights"

BLEW HIMSELF UP

The Captain of a German mine layer was pulled out of the North Sea the other day, by the boys on one of our sea-air rescue service launches (these are high speed motor boats used for picking up airmen—our own or the enemy's—who have crashed or baled out into the sea) and this German Captain was cursing the "incompetent English" at the top of his voice.

The boys on the launch could not understand at first what was biting him. So he told his sad story, and here it is:

"Every day for months passed the German skipper had taken his trawler to a certain stretch of water; and there he had methodically sown his mines. And every night following his expeditions, the British minesweepers had gone out and swept his mines up again. But one night the British did not go out for some reason. The methodical German, proceeding as usual with his unlawful vocation on the following day ran into one of his own mines and blew himself up."

At a certain school in Bruges, the children on their Speech Day were questioned by a distinguished Nazi visitor.

A small boy of six or seven was called on to the platform and was asked: "And what would you like to be when you grow up?"

"An airman," answered the child without hesitation.

"Good, good, that is a beautiful ambition. And you will be able to go for long journeys in your aeroplane. Where will you go?"

"Oh, Monsieur," answered the child, surprised, "Of course I shall go to England."

DEHRA DUN TRAINING CENTRE

With the recent opening of a St. Dunstan's Hostel and Training Centre in India, at Dehra Dun, war-blinded Indian soldiers now have the opportunity to become useful citizens.

Initiated by a representative of St. Dunstan's in India, Lieut.-Col. Sir Clutha Mackenzie, who himself was blinded in the last war, the centre in India was started in the middle of 1943.

Already nearly a score of blind soldiers are learning useful handicrafts. The hostel at Dehra Dun comprises quarters in a pleasantly wooded valley at the foot of the Himalayas, which were formerly occupied by Italian generals captured in the Western Desert.

In addition to receiving special training which will enable them to read newspapers and books, these men are also taught various trades which they may practise later either as a hobby or to supplement their income from pensions. They also learn how to travel alone and to eat their meals with their own hands.

Special attention is paid to their health. Treatment is given to remove pain and to restore any degree of vision there might be. Plastic surgery is also employed to remove scars and cuts.

St. Dunstan's in India, as in England, is being run on voluntary subscriptions. A dance at Dehra Dun last Armistice Day brought in nearly Rs. 2,000. An unusual gift came in the form of a bale of cotton yarn from a firm in Cawnpore. It was used by the blind soldiers for making 'niwar' during trade training hours.

COMRADES-IN-ARMS

Teams made up of Indian and British soldiers are serving in India's mixed gunner units which are located all over India.

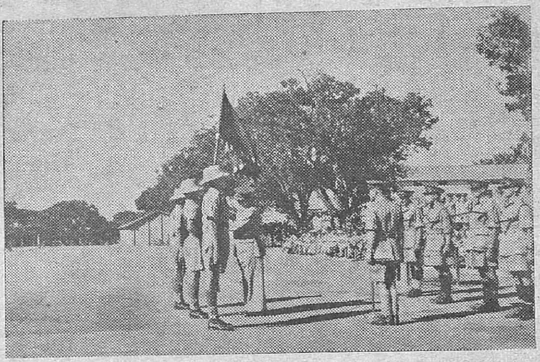
Many of the Indian gunners are South Indian youths, who have enlisted in the greatly expanding Indian Artillery.

South Indians speak many languages—Tamil, Telugu, Kannada or Malayalam, with or without a smattering of Hindustani. A common language was thus the first difficulty. British N.C.O. instructors were obliged to train the crews in the use of the guns and the intricate range-and direction-finding equipment entirely by signs and silent demonstration.

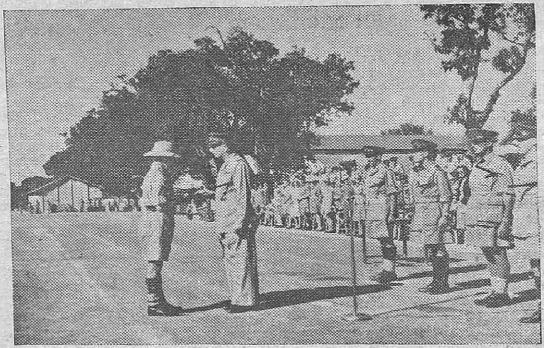
Food on a gun-site is another problem; the South Indian soldier and the British Tommy have different tastes and views about what they would like to eat. So at each meal the gunners gather round a camp fire, the South Indian to boil his rice and fry his vegetables, and the Tommy to cook his beans.

There is an excellent spirit of understanding among the men of these mixed units. The Tommy sits through an Indian talkie show during the brief spells of time off with the Indian gunners. He samples Indian foodstuffs offered to him by a man from Madras, Tinnevelly or the West Coast. Invitations to spend his leave in an Indian's home are not infrequent.

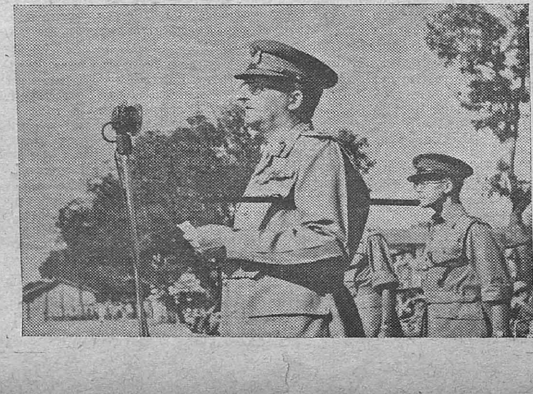
O.T.S. PASSING-OUT PARADE AT BANGALORE



Lieutenant-General Sir Noel Beresford Peirse, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Army, recently attended the passing-out parade of a course of Officer Cadets at the O.T.S., Bangalore. The Wavell Banner was also presented to the champion company over the period of the last three months. Photo shows the General making the presentation.



Officer Cadet D. Carr, the best Cadet of the course passing out, receives his award and congratulations from the General.



Addressing the assembled Cadets Lieutenant-General Sir Noel Beresford Peirse said: "A high morale in your platoon is the only road to Victory."

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

19TH JAN.—Mr. Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, made a statement on the Russo-Polish situation.

Lord Beaverbrook made a statement on the future of civil aviation.

20TH JAN.—Dover guns shelled a German convoy. A big German vessel near Cape Griz Nez was sunk.

Mr. Churchill received the Polish Prime Minister and the Polish Foreign Minister when Anthony Eden was also present.

The Royal Air Force made a very heavy bombing attack on Berlin. Allied bombers attacked targets in Calais. Canadian planes attacked two German destroyers in the Channel.

21ST JAN.—London and places in England were raided. Eight German aircraft were destroyed.

Important industrial centre in Central Germany, Magdeburg was heavily bombed and 2,000 tons of bombs were dropped. Berlin was also attacked.

22ND JAN.—The Air Minister Sir Archibald Sinclair said that the battle of Germany ranked with the battle of the Stalingrad and the battle of the Atlantic among the decisive battles of war.

23RD JAN.—Lieut.-Genl. Carl Spaaz, the American bombing chief for the Second Front, has arrived in England.

24TH JAN.—The Allied bombers attacked military objectives in western Germany.

Sir Stafford Cripps said that 1944 was going to be the hardest and most difficult year Britain had experienced in this war.

25TH JAN.—Mr. Anthony Eden announced in the Commons that the British Government do not recognize the Bolivian Junta as the legal Government of Bolivia.

* * *

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

19TH JAN.—The House of Representatives postponed the consideration of the U.N.R.R.A. legislation.

21ST JAN.—President Roosevelt met his Cabinet.

22ND JAN.—At least one U-boat was sunk, two others were probably destroyed and a number of others damaged by vessels and aircraft protecting an important Atlantic convoy bound for the United Kingdom some weeks ago, states an Admiralty and Air Ministry Communiqué issued to-day.

23RD JAN.—President Roosevelt created a War Refugee Board.

24TH JAN.—The United States have refused recognition of the new Bolivian regime and the United States Ambassador to Bolivia has been recalled.

*

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

19TH JAN.—His Excellency the Viceroy visited Gorakhpur.

20TH JAN.—To-day's South-East Asia Command Allied War Communiqué says that Allied advance continued in Burma and Jap attacks on Arakan front repulsed. Other details of Allied bombing are also given.

His Excellency the Viceroy gave interviews to the Governor-designate of Bengal at Lucknow.

Mr. Amery answered a number of questions about India in the Commons to-day.

Sir Firoz Khan Noon is appointed a representative of India at the War Cabinet.

21ST JAN.—His Excellency the Viceroy visited Allahabad and Benares. A communiqué from South-East Asia Command says that Eastern Air Command Air Forces attacked Bangkok on 19–20. Other details of air activities are also related. The Allied troops occupied Sinohbyin in Arakan. American trained Chinese forces have been active in the Hukawng Valley.

22ND JAN.—His Excellency the Viceroy and party arrived in Bombay.

The Right Honourable R. G. Casey assumed office as Governor of Bengal.

The Government of India have decided to appoint a High Commissioner for India in Australia.

23RD JAN.—His Excellency the Viceroy visited slum areas in Bombay.

The South-East Asia Commands Communiqué issued to-day states that Jap positions near the Yu and Chindwin rivers' junction were pounded. A village near Maungdaw was captured. Mogaung, Prome, Pegu and Myingyan were bombed.

24TH JAN.—His Excellency the Viceroy visited grain shops and mills in Bombay.

To-day's South-East Asia Command communiqué says that Chinese forces have taken Mingru Ga. One strong enemy position in the Jaro Arc was occupied.

25TH JAN.—His Excellency the Viceroy left Bombay for Belgaum.

General Sir George Giffard has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Army Group in South-East Asia and General W. J. Slim has been appointed Commander of the Fourteenth Army.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

19TH JAN.—The Soviet troops captured Krasnoye Salo, Peterhof, Ropsha and Shubino. It is stated that 550,000 Germans were killed in the past two months.

20TH JAN.—Russians captured Novgorod north of Lake Ilmen, an important town at the junction of five important railways. General Vatutin's men are making rapid progress in their advance on Roono.

21ST JAN.—The Red Army captured Mga on the Leningrad front.

22ND JAN.—The Russian divisions on the Pripet front have crossed the river Visha at several points. Soviet troops landed south-east of Kerch in Crimea.

23RD JAN.—German defences within 20-mile radius of Leningrad are disintegrating rapidly. Red Army troops are closing in on the outskirts of Tosno.

24TH JAN.—Soviet troops have captured Pushkin and Pavlovsk-Slutsk and have cut the Gatchinka-Narva railway line. Russians are now within four miles of Chudovo.

25TH JAN.—The Russians have increased their pressure at Kerch. Russian troops have closed in on Gatchina.

* * *

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

19TH JAN.—British troops of the Fifth Army have made several crossings of the Garigliano river. On the Eighth Army front, Canadian troops have withdrawn to their original positions.

20TH JAN.—The Allied forces captured Minturno. The Fifth Army continued its advance in the Tyrrhenian sea sector.

Marshal Badoglio told "my basic policy is to push the Germans from Italy and to render maximum aid to the Allies. All Internal Italian questions take second place."

21ST JAN.—Pressure was maintained against the enemy on both the fronts. British and American troops of the Fifth Army landed in the West Coast

FOR YOUR RADIO DIARY

JAN. 29.—BOMBAY—8-20 p.m. "War Commentary."

JAN. 29.—LAHORE—9-45 p.m. "Yesterday in Chungking." By Victor Kiernan.

JAN. 30.—BOMBAY—8-20 p.m. "What the Enemy thinks." By S. Natarajan.

JAN. 30.—TRICHINOPOLY—9 p.m. "The Challenge of Peace: Rehabilitation." By Dr. R. N. Poduval.

JAN. 31.—DACCA—8 p.m. "Japan on the Defensive." By P. C. Mitra.

JAN. 31.—LUCKNOW—9-45 p.m. "Twilight of Fascism—Nemesis." By Rev. A. G. Davies-Leigh.

of Italy between Nettuno and Tiber Estuary.

22ND JAN.—The Allies have occupied Nettuno, 32 miles south of Rome. All airfields in Rome area have been knocked out.

23RD JAN.—The substantial beach-head seized in yesterday's landings on the west coast of Italy has been widened and deepened. American troops have enlarged their bridgeheads across the Rapido river.

24TH JAN.—On the main Fifth Army front fierce counter-attacks have been launched against Allied troops at numerous points. Patrols have been active on the Eighth Army front.

25TH JAN.—Allied forces are approaching the Appian Way. The port of Anzio is in Allied hands.

* * *

VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

19TH JAN.—M. Riad el Solh, the Labanese Premier said the independence of Labanon would remain absolute.

21ST JAN.—Allied bombers attacked targets in Northern France.

23RD JAN.—Allied aircraft attacked military objectives in Northern France. Fierce battles are in progress in Yugoslavia.

24TH JAN.—Northern France was raided by the Allied bombers.

American aircraft raided Sofia at noon.

* * *

THE FAR EAST

19TH JAN.—American troops in the Arawe area of New Britain have advanced 1,000 yards into Japanese territory. Allied bombers raided Amboina and set fire to a 9,000-ton Jap ship and bombed Hansabay, the Jap supply base in New Guinea.

20TH JAN.—Three Jap merchantmen were sunk at Rabaul by bombs. Two others were damaged. Twenty-one Jap 'planes were shot down.

The United States War Secretary, Mr. Henry L. Stimson said that Jap resistence in Northern New Guinea may be collapsing. He added that Allied troops were making steady progress in South-west Pacific.

21ST JAN.—A British submarine sank a Jap cruiser and three large supply ships in the northern approaches to the Straits of Malacca. United States submarines have sunk 12 more Jap vessels in the Pacific and the Far East.

The Japanese Primier made a statement on the war.

Bombers based on the Aleutians bombed Paramushiru island.

22ND JAN.—The Allied planes attacked Amboina, Madang, Ramu valley, Hansa Bay, Empress Augusta Bay and Bougainvilla, etc.

The Australia-New Zealand agreement reached on 21st is published today.

23RD JAN.—The New Zealand Minister to United States Mr. Walter Nash advocated the creation of trusteeship for South Pacific.

Jap Busters

Paramushiro island, the important Japanese naval and air base 1,800 miles from Tokyo has been bombed for the second time.

United States planes attacked Hongkong and Marshall Islands.

24TH JAN.—The German Ambassador in Tokyo, Heinrich Sthamer had one hour's talk on the international situation with the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mamaru Shigemitsu.

Australian troops cleared the Japanese from their fox-holes in the Upper Faria river area of New Guinea.

Six men who attempted to murder Wang Ching Wei, the Prime Minister of Nanking Government, were arrested and immediately executed.

25TH JAN.—Only 300 yards separated two arms of the Australian princess closing on the Japanese in the Finisterre mountain area of New Guinea.

THEY SAY IN VIENNA . . .

What is robbery ? If a child steals it is *mania* ; if an adult steals, *Kleptomania* ; and if a whole nation steals, *Germania.*

* * *

Hitler sent a man to Vienna to find out how things were going on. The man came back and reported : " No potatoes, no fruit, no butter, no meat ".

" Thank goodness," said the Fuehrer, " that I only promised the Viennese workers work and bread ".

* * *

A Viennese schoolboy wrote in his composition : " The wicked Jews would have ruined our country if the Fuehrer had not forestalled them ".

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS, AND PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WAR PUBLICITY, " VICTORY " HOUSE, MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.